

# Alma College Library News

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Winter 2010



## From the Director

by Carol Zeile

Fall Term 2009 was another busy one for us in the library. Although the evenings are still our busiest times, we are noticing that more and more students use the library throughout the day. It is common for most of the tables on the main floor to be occupied at almost any time. Our entrance/exit gates at the main entrance have a counter that keeps track every time someone walks through. In September through December 2009, 14,000 more people used that entrance compared with the same time period in 2008.

In addition to seeing and helping more students, the librarians are getting more and more involved with teaching, both information literacy courses in the library and academic courses in other disciplines. In addition to our advanced degrees in librarianship, each of the librarians has an advanced degree in an academic discipline. This helps us in our work with students and faculty and also gives us the ability to teach courses outside the library. Being more actively involved in the classroom helps connect the students with the library and heighten their awareness of the services available.

As always, we have a wonderful group of student assistants who are helping us to keep the library open an extra five hours a week this term. In April we will celebrate the Commencement of the seniors, many of whom have worked for us for four years. See the article on page 3 for more information about them and their plans for the future.

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## Upcoming Events in the Library

Dr. Robert Vivian  
Reading, *Lamb Bright Saviors*  
February 18, 2010  
7:00 p.m.

Michigan Author, Tom Springer  
March 15, 2010  
7:00 p.m.  
*\*see article on page two*



Alma College Library provides services, resources and instruction to support the mission of the College. By creating an environment conducive to learning, exploration and group interaction, the Library strives to foster intellectual curiosity and academic excellence, to be responsive to changes in the delivery of information and to champion life-long learning.



## Michigan Author, Tom Springer, Visiting Alma College

by Angie Kelleher, Access Services Librarian

On March 15, the library will continue our Michigan Author Speaker Series by hosting author Tom Springer. Springer was born in Three Rivers, Michigan and earned his M.A. in Environmental Journalism from Michigan State. He spent 21 years in the Michigan Army National Guard, and retired as a master sergeant. Currently a senior editor for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Springer wears many hats, including speechwriter, magazine editor, video producer and project manager. He has published several works of non-fiction, including *Blessed with Children* (1991), and *How to Unravel Science Mysteries for Young Minds Without Unraveling* (1993). Springer has also written about nature and outdoor travel for newspapers and magazines such as *Backpacker*, *Michigan Out-of-Doors*, and *Notre Dame*, and his nature-themed commentaries have aired on several National Public Radio programs. His most recent work, *Looking for Hickories* (2009), was chosen as a Michigan Notable Book for 2009.

*Looking for Hickories* is a collection of essays about “the forgotten wildness of the rural Midwest.” Subjects range from barn building to land preservation to the neglected importance of various trees in the landscape. Springer deftly blends his knowledge of biology and the environment with an appreciation of Michigan people and lore. He will visit Dr. Vivian’s Creative Nonfiction Workshop class and will read from his work Monday evening in the library Anderson Reading area at 7:00 pm. A reception and book-signing will follow. This event is free and open to the public.

## A New Way of Viewing

by Steven Vest, Head Reference/Instruction Librarian

The library has a new way of viewing and printing microforms! The library recently installed the ScanPro 2000 a microform printer/viewer that uses a computer to view, scan and digitize microfilmed content. An oversized monitor makes it much easier to work with old or poor quality originals. The new process not only provides a clearer image it allows users to digitize any microform and print, save or email the material in all of the standard graphic formats.

The ScanPro 2000 is located in the basement of the library and is available for immediate use. Perhaps best of all, the library is no longer charging a fee for microfilm copies. If you’d like instruction on using the new system simply contact a librarian.

## Credo Reference- the Library’s New Online Collection of Reference Books

by Marcus Richter, Technical Services Librarian

Since July 2009 students and faculty are able to use an online collection of reference books. This collection contains dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries, thesauri, encyclopedias, quotations and atlases, plus a wide range of subject-specific titles covering everything from art to accountancy, science to Shakespeare and law to literature. Credo Reference is a great place to start your research or to get information about things you don’t know anything about.

You can access the Credo Reference collection by clicking on the “Alphabetical list” link of the online resources on our library webpage. Then click “Credo Reference” and it will take you to the start page of the online collection. Contact a librarian if you have questions about Credo or other online resources.



## Alma College Library to Say Goodbye to Six Seniors

by Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

The time has come again for Alma College Library to say good bye to its graduating student assistants. We are especially concerned this year as our graduates face a particularly challenging time to graduate but we are assured that Alma College has prepared them well for the next chapter in their lives.



DeAnna Daniels, Chicago senior will be graduating with a degree in Religion and is currently choosing a graduate school to further pursue her studies. DeAnna worked in our Circulation Department during her four years here.



Breina Field of Midland, has worked in our Circulation Department and will be graduating in April. Breina is considering internship opportunities with some political campaigns and eventually wants to pursue a career as a Law Librarian.



Sarah Zimmerman came to us with experience from working at her local library in Owosso, and after four years working in our Circulation Department we have still have been unable to get her to change her major from Education to Librarian. Sarah is currently student teaching in one of the local elementary schools.



Meekin Udell, one of our local students from Edmore, is graduating with a double major in English and Theatre. Meekin worked in our Serial and Processing Department.



Aimee Deakin graduated in December with a degree in Exercise and Health Science. She is considering different options in continuing her education in the health care field.



Adam Meininger of Hillman is graduating with a degree in Mathematics and when he graduates in April, will be looking for job opportunities as a computer programmer.



## New Student Assistants Joining the Library Team

We welcome the following student assistants hired this Winter Term 2010 to the Library Staff:

### Circulation Desk

- Ben Caesar, freshman from Ithaca
- Michael McDonald, freshman from Alma
- Lin Lin Chen, sophomore from Whitmore Lake

**GOAL**  
**Raise \$10,000**  
**for Endowment**

\$10,000



\$3,228.46

## Library Textbook Award for Students

by Carol Zeile, Director

The library staff members initiated the Library Textbook Award in May, 2005. Since that time, 22 awards have been given. Students receive a voucher for \$150 each which can be used to help purchase textbooks and supplies. Each student completes an application in order to be considered for the Award and the library staff members meet to decide the recipients. In this way, we are able say thank you in a tangible way for the assistance we receive.

In January, 2007, we also started an endowment fund to ensure that the Textbook Award continues. Our goal is to reach \$10,000 in this endowed fund. Once we achieve that level we will be able to use the interest to provide Awards each year. Through the generosity of library staff members and friends, the current balance in the endowment fund is \$3,228.46

### Support the Alma College Library & Students **PLEDGE/GIFT COMMITMENT**

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is check # \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: Alma College Library, 614 W Superior St., Alma, MI 48801

**Thank you!** If you have any questions, please call Carol Zeile @ 989-463-7342 or email: [zeile@alma.edu](mailto:zeile@alma.edu)